AINS Correspondence

Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner + Co.

[Oriental + African Booksellers]

[London, England]

1924 - 1931

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Kegan Point, Irewin, Ireglia

March 27th, 1924

Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co.
39 New Oxford Street
London, W.C.1

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your favour of March 14th. I beg to state that we already have in our Library the Catalogue of Mussulman Coins in Imperial Hermitage, about which you write.

Appreciating your thinking of us, I am,

Very truly yours,

Secretary

TELEGRAMS: COLUMNÆ, LONDON. TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 1252

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., LTD.

ORIENTAL & AFRICAN BOOKSELLERS

38 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

AGENTS FOR:—THE BRITISH MUSEUM—ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, N. CHINA BRANCH—JAPAN SOCIETY, LONDON—ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CHINA—BOMBAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—COMMERCIAL PRESS, SHANGHAI—TARAPOREVALA, SONS & CO. BOMBAY, ETC.

REFERENCE:— C/A/1340. 16th June, 1931.

S.P.Noe, Esq.,
Librarian,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street, West of Broadway,
New York.

Dear Sir,

We have for sale a copy of a very rare early Chinese Currency Note which we think you may be interested to acquire. It is an Imperial Ming Government Note for 1 Kuan (1,000 cash) issued during the reign of the Emperor Hung Wu (1368-1398 A.D.)

This Note, measuring 8½" x 13½" and printed on greyish-black thick paper is in an excellent state of preservation having the two red seals on the face and the red and black seals on the reverse. It is referred to by Du Halde in his "Monumental Work on China" as well as by early Chinese Writers, and it is one of the earliest issues of paper currency of the world.

The Note is described by H.B.Morse in his "Trade Administration of the Chinese Empire", by Vissering in his work "On Chinese Currency", as well as in various other works, and it is probably most fully described in Mr. Andrew Macfarland Davis' book "Certain Old Chinese Notes" (a paper presented to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Boston, 1915). Mr. Davis could only find seven copies of this Note in public museums three being at St. Petersburg, two in the British Museum one in the St. John's University, Shanghai, and one in the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass. A few private collectors are known to have copies, but the Note is, as may be expected, extremely rare.

American Numismatic Society. 16th June, 1931.

The price asked for the Note is £35.-.-. and if you wish to consider purchasing it, we shall be pleased to show it to anyone in London whom you may care to nominate.

Awaiting your reply,

We beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO. LTD.,
A.C.

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Kearney, Miss Margaret